



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

August 12-14, 2023

Matthew 14:22-33

Take Courage in Christ.

Verses 22-23: Jesus knew what had to be done. He sent the disciples ahead and dispersed the crowd. Then he went up on a mountainside to pray. Jesus had just taught for a long time and fed 5000+ people. What are ways we can make time in God's Word and prayer to our Father in heaven a priority in our lives?

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Verses 24: It is hard to row a boat across a big lake. It is much more toilsome and tiresome when the wind is against you and waves are crashing. What a long day the disciples had! How tired they were! And they were some distance from land, but not near their destination! Living in this life is often _____.

Verse 25: Jesus walks on the water. This miracle right after the other miracle highlights plainly and simply that Jesus is true God as well as true Man and that he is omni-_____.

Verse 26: What might be a reason that people resort to superstition when they see something they can't explain by natural means?

They are afraid. How might you have felt?

Verse 27: Jesus immediately responds to their cries of fear. And he speaks three statements. What do they show us?

"Take courage!"

"It is I."

"Don't be afraid."

Verse 28-29: Peter believed it is Jesus, and is willing to step out on the water (another miracle) if Jesus is willing. Jesus is willing. Describe Jesus' power:

Verses 29-31: By whose power was Peter walking?

What was Peter afraid of?

From Fear to Faith to Fear to Faith.

Jesus said, "Why did you doubt?" As Christians do we have any reason to fear?

Why?/Why not?

What are the fears that trip you up?

How does Jesus calm your fear and give courage?

Verse 32-33: Jesus and Peter get into the boat, and now the wind dies down. How would you have explained this to people when you got to shore?

What would you conclude about Jesus?

What would you conclude about Peter and each one of us had we been in the boat?

The disciples had reason to worship Jesus. "Truly you are the Son of God." They saw his power over nature. They saw his power and heart to grow and nurture faith in his disciples. They saw his power to save even his doubting disciples. What reasons would we add for worshipping Jesus the Son of God?

How will this account impact your Monday morning?